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Appraising approaches to ‘Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Exploitation among Children’ through Human Rights Regime: Global and Indian Efforts and Emoluments

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ABSTRACT

In the wake of human development, over the decades, changes have been the only constant. In that effort the need and requirement to review human rights through varied lenses has taken a centre stage. Started with understanding the essence of identifying human rights and necessity to clothe the human civilization by recognising their basic rights being humans to understand the hegemonical requirement of recognising it in a very vivid manner has become one invincible part in the developmental pace of International and National human rights regime. Among the multiple strata identified in this task, the one who were always needed to be addressed primarily are, children. Though the global community has been quite instrumental in enabling children with a canopy of laws and international instruments in the broader domain of human rights over the time; it is really surprising to still witness that the globe is not yet free of child abuse, sexual exploitation of minors, non-sensitised approach towards their identity or even providing a constructive definition many times. Delving deeper, it has been found that, in many such cases these manhandling goes out of slightest notice to be addressed seriously in later days. These are issues of are utter prominence across the Globe and every Nation-State in some or the extent are succumbed to these issues which revolves around one of the most vulnerable communities of the world. The present article will primarily deal with the niche areas of how the identification, determination, stratification and assimilation of the issues mentioned above have been addressed by the Human Rights regime over the time by some of the chief International Global Organisations and predominantly in India. The article is divided in five parts to deal with the understanding of the delineated concepts first and then would deal in detail with the legal aspects and varied approaches and experiences gathered over the time of interpreting modern human rights regime on the identified issues in 21st Century.

Keywords: *Child rights, human rights violation, sexual exploitation, gender sensitisation, international legal paradigm, judicial approach.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Children are considered to be the most timid and soft form of an individual in their phase of growing and maturing in the pace of life. They are just interpreted as a lump of wet soil to give shape and a plain paper to dictate the complexities of the societal fabric gradually. Even the most fundamental things we inherit unconsciously in life from our vicinity; impacts the lives, psychology, thinking pattern and personality of a child. They are so timid and new to each and every thing happening or not happening around them, that the entire world seems to be their classroom and on the contrary their vicinity tends to be their entire world. Children are future of the present and keeping that in mind they are tend to be shaped at the best effort of their parentage and other close ones. Having said that, children are to be nevertheless considered as an immature being and hence must be kindled likewise. But this is the biggest hurdle majority of people around can't pass through. Children as seem to be timid and docile because of their age, the people around them very easily ignoring their mental faculties, treat their innocence as their ignorance to many behavioural patterns happen to and around them.

According to Mariah Moser, a child psychologist, "With children, it is the joint moments of delight that build the social brain."² It is those innumerable small pieces of moments which come together to give a child a trail of behavioural pattern to learn and exhibit in their days later. So, it become immensely important to handle the shaping methodology of a child very carefully while balancing the level and depth of careful attitude to allow them for building their independent thought process and personality. However, it has been witnessed that from quite a long time, the societal fabric is changing with a slow but steady dynamicity. This dynamic society though accommodates of a lot of advancement and positivity, holds some very dangerous and ought to be learned impediments for kids. The present paper has dealt two such aspects which plays a pivotal role in the society one is gender sensitisation and other is sexual exploitation.

The two terms are quite hefty and broad in themselves. While in one hand, gender sensitisation has its own paradigm and importance in the society, a very prime and sensitive area to be made relevant and aware for the children, on the other hand, sexual exploitation and its prevalence among children, that is an yet another very sensitive and serious modality for the tiny minds to understand and accommodate. This paper has tried to make an attempt to understand and delineate that how the International Human Rights Regime has responded towards both the

² Mariah Moser, Inspiring Quotes on Child Learning and Development, available at: <https://www.vincegowmon.com/inspiring-quotes-on-child-learning-and-development/>

aspects of gender sensitisation and sexual exploitation and its impact on children across the world and then a slight overview of what and how our nation has tackled the entire matter and responded towards the same.

(A) Methodology

The main scheme which has been adopted to write this paper is doctrinal form of research. Mainly the articles in various reputed journals, reports, reviews, case laws and findings have been referred to. The paper is divided in four parts where the area has been introduced, the International Legal paradigm in both the factors impacting child rights would be dealt, the National developments in the concerned areas would be discussed and finally the suggestions and conclusions would be brought in light. The scope of the paper is to cater both the aspects of gender sensitisation and sexual exploitation of children across the globe and how the International Human Rights Regime is addressing and tackling the same. And also, how far the domestic laws of our country have taken care w.r.t the same issues. One by one they have been dealt chronologically.

II. GENDER SENSITISATION AND CHILDREN

Gender refers to the socially constructed identities, attributes and roles of persons in relation to their sex and the social and cultural meanings attached to biological differences based on sex.³ This socially attributed tagged personalities play a very prominent role in the upbringing of kids in our vicinity. They are quite strongly made attached with the kind of gender they belong to and above all their lion's share orientation revolves around which gender they fall. This pattern is constant all across the societies around the globe indifferent to the economic or socio-political structures of the societies. This gender identity is not a problem in itself, rather it brings in uniformity of understanding the pattern in which genders are widely understood. What becomes important and what is the grey area is the way in which the concept of gender is dealt in the societies and when it finally erupts in discrimination of people on its basis. That particular arena of gender identification not merely remains as identification but also tantamount to discrimination in majority cases. That discrimination seeps in big blots for the societies to thrive in.

Now, when it comes to be related in the matter toddlers or rather individuals falling under the category of minors or even *doli incapax*; the ways in which gender needs to be described

³ United Nations Human Rights, INTEGRATING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS- Guidance and Practice, available at; <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Women/Publications/GenderIntegrationintoHRInvestigations.pdf>

towards them plays a very in-depth role in their holistic growth. As they by and large lacks the understanding of how to delineate the natural differences on the basis of gender identity, it is quite an arduous task to make them understand the societal disinvitation on the basis of gender and how rules have been framed around them. Also, the questionable actions which are rampant in the society and are to be treated as a vitiated behaviour towards these vulnerable group of people needed to be made clear to them. This entire process of developing the know how and making the mass aware about the plethora of allied issues on the basis of gender is known as, Gender Sensitisation. It may also be termed or defined as a manner in which people at large are made aware of the sanctity one is needed to maintain in terms of showing respect, apathy, and responsibility towards one's own gender and to other genders as well.

Now with the advancement of time and era, we have come across that the mere binary approach of 'he' and 'she' has also broadened into what we call now as 'third gender' as well. Being an integral part of human rights, these genders and their related settled attributes are need to be made an understandable topic for children as well. They are an inevitable part of the society, rather that important part which reflects the future of a given locality. The more they would be easily exposed to these areas of human awareness they more they become ready to face the unprecedented day to day life challenges revolving around gender identity. Areas like; gender equality, gender identity, gender discrimination in plenty of matters like -education, employability, accessibility are matter of grave importance. They are present in more or less every society whether it is believed to be developed or developing or even on the verge of development. Hence making the youngest generation of a societal structure aware of gender sensitisation becomes quite serious and important. The following points can be considered as prime objectives because of which spreading gender sensitisation among children is very important-

1. It becomes important for the children to understand the equality across all gender is a very profound area of attaining equivalence in a given society.
2. It is important for them to under understand the nuance of each gender and how they are normally tackled and interpreted in a given context.
3. It becomes necessary for them to understand the distinctive feature each gender carries so as to easily differentiate them in coming days with their inherent innocence.
4. It is also important for them to understand that discrimination is a very unwantedly common feature in majority of the societies to which they are equal stakeholders and hence need to know the very simplistic basis of how is discrimination on gender looks

like so as to prohibit the same in future.

5. It is utterly relevant for them to be sensitised on the basis of gender so as to understand the importance of other genders from the beginning of their days of early nurture.
6. It is also meaningful to safeguard them from unnecessary harassment and assault which they might face in any place of their dwelling zone.

These seemingly amounts to some most relevant and prime reasons for which gender sensitisation has to be imparted among children.

III. LEGAL APPROACH TOWARDS GENDER SENSITISATION

The issue of gender sensitisation has touched the core of many international organisations including United Nations for the addressing it. The idea of gender inequality has been very strictly prohibited in International Instruments like, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on Rights of Childre and the like parent conventions. Each of these instruments are quite stern in the idea of conferring the taste of equality and equal participation of all the genders existing in the society without any preclusion. UNESCO has also been quite instrumental in delivering the idea of gender equality and equal education for all to cater the concept of sensitisation.⁴ As already a matter to be handled with immense empathy and meticulousness, the actions envisaging gender sensitisation among children and majors and also awareness towards identification and prohibition of plethora of sexual exploitations of them holds itself as a very relevant objective for many International Organisations to work towards it. As mentioned earlier, it took time to create this hegemony of international instruments and varied legal approaches to address the issue, however the inevitable lacunae present while constructing so also can't be ignored. Hence, it is a major area of study so as to analyse the pace with which the Human Rights regime has changed its course and how it has handled its subject over the years across the globe. Organisations like; UNICEF, Council of Europe, Save the Children, ECPAT International, Child Rights International Network, Defence for Children International and many more have identified these two areas of children community to be addressed with an in-depth approach. Their extensive research and reports have made the greater community to understand the underneath and under toned areas of child rights and also helped many to develop and identify the issues which were priorly either use to get unaddressed or were majorly unearthed.

⁴ Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, Policy Framework for Gender-Sensitive Public Governance, OECD, September 2021, available at; <https://www.oecd.org/mcm/Policy-Framework-for-Gender-Sensitive-Public-Governance.pdf>

OECD Public Governance Committee's Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming and 2015 OECD Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life.⁵ These models have also highlighted the gender sensitisation policy in a very detailed manner so as to provide an in-depth understanding of the concept. The report highlights the fact that, beyond the recovery, enhancing gender equality is an integral part to ensure a balanced approach to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the end.⁶ The policy framework also went ahead in delineating certain factors which can be the enablers to implement gender sensitisation and can be considered as potential outcomes. For instance;

- Commitment, vision and leadership, which are crucial for achieving gender equality goals by generating buy-in across the public administration.
- Equitable and evidence-informed policy-making, which is rooted in a sound knowledge base, gender-disaggregated data from diverse sources, and assessments of gender-specific impacts across the policy cycle.
- Whole-of-government co-ordination, with clear roles and responsibilities to overcome siloes and tackle complex structural inequalities as well as emergencies.
- Innovation and change management in the public sector, which apply a gender and intersectional lens in order to ensure that innovation and change in the public sector are responsive to the needs of all persons.

All these have been promoted by the report to deploy the framework on sensitising gender identity.⁷ However; the report has nothing to particularly deal with the implementation at the level of minors specifically. But a holistic study can help to address the same agenda.

IV. EFFORTS IN INDIA TOWARDS GENDER SENSITISATION

The legislative framework which has been adopted by India in the name of, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, POCSO; which might parentally deal with sexual harassment and related offences, may be brought in light of being a bedrock initiative to sensitise the society and its subjects in terms of gender identity and dignity of children in its context. In addition to this, a very applaudable effort has been taken by the National Commission for Women in collaboration with Education Boards is launching a PAN India programme for running Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Programme with the target

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ *Supra* note. 4

⁷ *Supra* note. 4

group of students of Class XI and XII, to make them aware about gender identity and integrity.⁸ The Commission strongly believes that, introducing Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Programme at school level would facilitate inculcating values of equality, inclusivity and diversity, which are essential for building a healthy society among the adolescent boys and girls.⁹ Moreover, knowledge of laws relating to women and gender sensitization is not only crucial for balanced development of young minds; it will also help students in building correct values, self-discipline and national spirit.¹⁰ This collaboration is an excellent initiative taken by the Union Government to discern the understanding of sex and gender among the young minds in a detailed manner. The framework is broadly divided in 10 chapters covering the myriad of issues having potential to be addressed under the broad umbrella of gender sensitisation.¹¹

Also, it has been observed that the concept of 'GOOD TOUCH' and 'BAD TOUCH' at the elementary school level are being imparted by the teachers to their little students. The main objective works behind these efforts are to make them aware about the distinctiveness of a gender and also enlighten their young minds about the unavoidable evils they can be subjected to even without their knowledge. The effort may seem to be a timid step towards making the little ignited minds about the nuances in their gender, may be considered a very welcoming effort in the context of their sensitivity towards gender integrity. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has in recent, involved text books at all stages of school education to prioritise gender sensitization in designing activities/exercises.¹² Gender-sensitive messages have been incorporated in the inside of cover pages of the textbooks and the other supplementary materials.¹³ Moreover, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also prepared guidelines with the objective of accommodating gender sensitivity literature in textbooks and textual material, including question papers.¹⁴

In addition to all these, it is worth mentioning the Hon'ble Supreme Court in, *Aparna Bhat vs. The State Of Madhya Pradesh*,¹⁵ 2021, emphasised the essence of gender sensitisation entailing the fact that, pre conceived notions and idealising the pre-drawn character of a gender in a stereo

⁸ NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, GENDER SENSITIZATION, Booklet 'Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Programme in collaboration with Education Boards for Class 11th and 12th across India', July 2020, available at; http://ncw.nic.in/sites/default/files/Booklet-%20Gender%20Sensitization_0.pdf, pg, 2

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ *Supra* note. 8

¹¹ *Supra* note. 8

¹² India CSR, NCERT to promote gender sensitisation through their school curriculum, available at; <https://indiacsr.in/ncert-to-promote-gender-sensitisation-through-their-school-curriculum/>

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ *Supra* Note. 12

¹⁵ CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 329, OF 2021, [@ SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) NO. 2531 OF 2021], (ARISING OUT OF S.L.P. (CRL.) DIARY NO. 20318 OF 2020)

typical manner only puts the system away from being sensitised towards gender integrity.¹⁶ The Supreme Court has thus directed the National Judicial Academy to ensure the training of judges is appropriately gender-sensitive, by conducting awareness programs on stereotyping and subconscious biases and has directed the Bar Council of India to include topics related to gender-sensitisation in the curriculum at the undergraduate-level as well as in the syllabus for the All-India Bar Examination.¹⁷ In, the same case it has been strongly manifested that in absence of teachings imparted in lines of gender sensitisation, even the judiciary would be sulked in the deep-rooted misogyny of vague understanding in terms of gender integrity which will resultantly effect the judgements in matters related to sexual offences.¹⁸

V. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND CHILDREN

One other very important and sensitive area of child rights or their awareness is about sexual exploitation or harassment. The timid mind and bodies when even are not prepared for such atrocities in lives are actually made subject of those which they are completely unprepared and unaware of. The most challenging issue is that children in majority times are unable to even understand that a harassment is undergone by them. They do definitely infer that something uncanny might have happened and the memory of those gruesome episodes kept on haunting them however not even understanding at that moment that they are made subjected to sexual harassment or exploitation. On the other hand, this is very unfortunate that the miscreants take this opportunity to target children considering them as the safest zone to commit such crimes at wake of not getting identified. This remains a serious impediment even in tracing and identifying the actual number of such atrocities which happen to them prevalently.

While intervening the area in an international perspective, it is found out that sexual harassment among children happens in a very strange and eccentric manner which as mentioned above goes unnoticed in majority times. Also, it has been highlighted by some notable organisations that, harassment of that sort happens the most at times of war or/and civil strife.¹⁹ United Nations have highlighted many practical impediments, when such violences against this vulnerable section of the society takes place. Their languished conditions, the challenges in reintegrating them in the society.²⁰ Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children are gross human

¹⁶ Shruti Jagtap, Indian Supreme Court on Gender Sensitisation of Judges: *Aparna Bhat & Ors v State of Madhya Pradesh & Anr.*, available at; <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/indian-supreme-court-on-gender-sensitisation-of-judges-aparna-bhat-ors-v-state-of-madhya-pradesh-anr/>

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ *Supra* Note. 16

¹⁹ *Children and Armed Conflict, Sexual Violence against Children*, available at; <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/sexual-violence/>

²⁰ *ibid*

rights violations, and amounts to grave breaches of international humanitarian law as well. If committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population, sexual violence can constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity as mentioned under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.²¹

Rights of children has been recognized for the first time in International legal paradigm in 1924 when the first International Declaration on the rights of child was adopted by League of Nations.²² In the post-World War Era, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and plethora of regional instruments recognized more particularly, the human right to be free from violence, abuse and exploitation. These rights applied to everyone including children.²³ Also the Convention on Rights of Child, 1989 has categorically addressed the prohibition of all sorts of harassment including bodily harassment and assaults against children and minors.²⁴ In particular, Article 16 and Article 19 of the Convention mentions the prohibition of interfering the child's right to privacy and protection against all sorts of sexual abuse or maltreatment or exploitation.²⁵ In addition to this exclusive Convention, parent Conventions Like; Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; Convention on Civil and Political Rights 1966; Declaration of The Rights of the Child 1959; The UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child prostitution and Child Pornography; . Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse; SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution; The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, have all discouraged child sexual abuse to the greatest possible extent and encouraged a free space for them free of all these vexations. These instruments in their best possible ways have tried to address myriad of issues related to child sexual abuses and took their best possible efforts to curd them in the

²¹ Supra note 4

²² Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924, available at; <https://www.humanium.org/en/geneva-declaration/>

²³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at; https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

²⁴ Convention on Rights of Child, available at; <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text>

²⁵ Article 19, Convention on Rights of Child; Article 19-

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

desired degree.

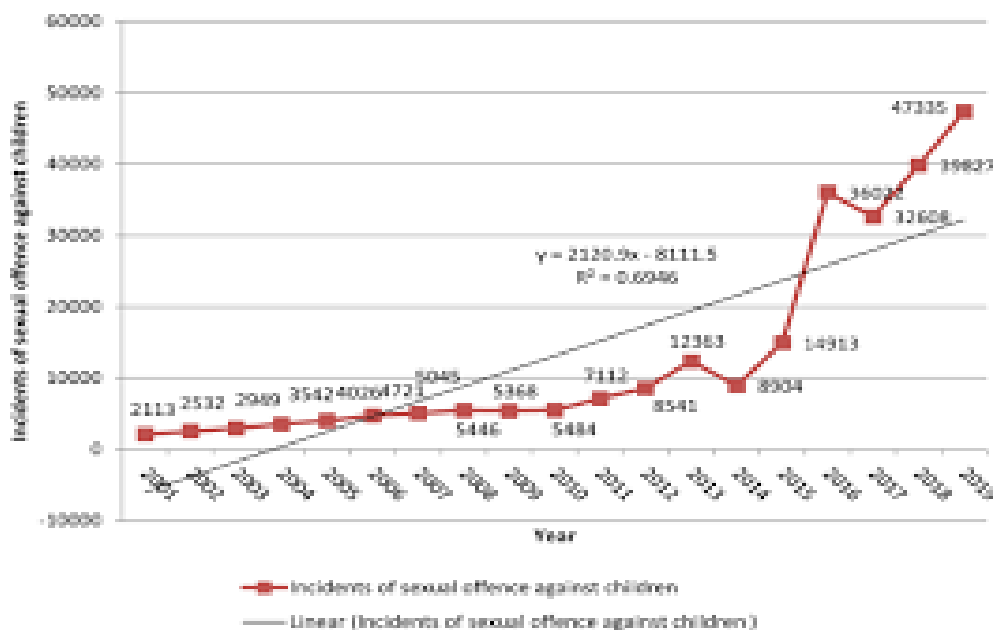
Apart from these there are mentionable international level programmes which have been designed, launched and executed for better pinning down these issues and with the objective that the entire globe can understand its seriousness and join hands to mitigate the issues. Stop Child Abuse and Neglect; World Day For the Prevention of Child Abuse; Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children 2020 are some glaring examples of such motions adopted and taken ahead with the objective of upholding these sensitive issues and make the world at large to understand its seriousness and trickling effect.²⁶

VI. INDIAN APPROACH TOWARDS CHILD SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER SENSITISATION

Much like any other part of the world, India is not at all outside the realm of child sexual harassment and shameful abuses happening against children in each and every second. Probably even while writing this article more than 100 of children around the country would be getting subjected to such atrocities. Also, our country lags a lot when it comes to the aspect of gender sensitisation. The diversified socio-economic fabric and being one of the most heterogeneous society, India has a lot of mixed stratification which makes it even more complex for the law makers and the authorities to address the agendas in discussion. The wide spread population and ever flowing migration from various land locked nearby countries have made the child population of this country an easy prey to these atrocities while keeping them away from the awareness of gender equality. However, it is a matter of worth mentioning that even after such impediments, a national level legislation in the name of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012²⁷ has been implemented in the country specifically to approach and take deterrent steps against all sort of child sexual abuses and atrocities. The legislation has been parentally conceived by the Indian legislative mechanism to give an in-depth attention towards all sorts of unabated sexual abuses, violences and atrocities our children community of the nation goes through. In spite of that, it is quite visible that, bodily crimes against children has been a rampant trend even in recent times and even post 2012, the times when the legislation was in place.

²⁶ Reena & Seema Dahiya, International Framework For The Protection Of Child Abuse: An Analysis, Volume 9, Issue 10 October 2021 |available at; <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2110004.pdf>

²⁷ The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 available at; <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/POCSO%20Act%2C%202012.pdf>



In actual terms the ways these aspects have been catered to doesn't only remain in the domain of making laws and executing them. There is a lot behind understanding the apathy and addressing the grass root challenges with varied angles and through various lenses.²⁸

VII. JUDICIAL RESPONSES TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN INDIA

In addition to the vehement prohibition of such crimes by IPC and POCSO Act, the Indian judiciary has shown a lot of apathy and given wide attention in addressing the issue of all sort of atrocities against children and especially sexual offences. Case like; *Dattu Ramrao Sakhare v. State of Maharashtra*, the Supreme Court held that conviction on the sole evidence of the child witness is permissible, if the witness is found competent and the testimony is trustworthy.²⁹³⁰ *State of Rajasthan Vs. Om Prakash*, (2002) 5 SCC 745,³¹ children need special care and protection and, in such cases, responsibility on the shoulders of the Courts is more onerous so as to provide proper legal protection to these children.³² Also, in *Nipun Saxena v. Union of India*, (2019) 2 SCC 703,³³ it is observed by this Court that a minor who is subjected to sexual abuse needs to be protected even more than a major victim because a major victim being an adult may still be able to withstand the social ostracization and mental harassment meted out by society, but a minor victim will find it difficult to do so.³⁴ In a recent case of 2022

²⁸Graph on child sexual abuse, available at; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-022-01469-x>

²⁹ MANU/SC/1185/1997: (1997) 5 SCC 341

³⁰Rohit vs. State [CRL.A. 333/2020 & CRL.M.(B.) 7465/2020]: Delhi High Court, available at; <https://litigatinghand.com/conviction-on-the-sole-evidence-of-the-child-witness-is-permissible-if-the-witness-is-found-competent-and-the-testimony-is-trustworthy/>

³¹ Appeal (crl.) 1975 of 1996, available at; <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1308098/>

³² MANU/SC/0416/2002: (2002) 5 SCC 745

³³ In The Supreme Court of India, Civil/Criminal Original Jurisdiction, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 565 Of 2012

³⁴ Nipun Saxena vs Union Of India Ministry Of Home, available at; <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/53672964/>

also the judiciary has taken a stern position in reiterating all its previous judgements and views towards honouring optimum justice to the minors and children of our societies to make a better and a safe place to live in.³⁵ The judgement has also highlighted the importance of Article 19 of Convention on Child Rights which we have discussed previously and made the country remember the conformity we have shown towards the Convention.

VIII. SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

In its closure, it would be apt to mention that, children are a nation's future. A country can dwell well in case their children get a good and free childhood; free from all aversions. Balancing the inadvertences in their lives hence becomes utterly important. Issues which have been discussed in the paper viz; gender sensitisation and sexual harassment or violence against children are not nascent neither new and fresh topics to be discussed. However, a timely renewal of these thought process towards rethinking our societal vexes and dealing with them while going deep, still gives the feel that there is much untold to discuss. Delving deep in the data, it is not a new fact to be established that in dearth of gender sensitivity and considering children as very easy and accessible subject to commit sexual offences, crimes against them are rampant in the globe. Also, there lies a very big grey area where, gender sensitisation is merely equated and understood as attaining gender equality or parity. However, that is not the case. It is much just beyond taking initiatives to bring in genders at par to each other. There is a lot more to understand and interpret in terms of attaining gender sensitivity and make our young minds understand its value and importance. Some conclusive efforts which has been mentioned earlier in the article of course will have a positive impact on the society and among children. But more concerted efforts in the direction of making gender sensitivity an easy and accessible area to interpret is necessary. Our grown-up community has a large role to play here. The discussions with regards to sexual choices and other allied issues can be made easily explainable to the toddlers in the way they will understand instead of any hush-hush approach. That way the less or no discussed but inevitable and sensitive question in the mind of minors can be much easily tackled. The stereotypical understanding of binary division in gender which is an ought to be normalcy till recent past has now broken its shackles of conservatism, the easiest way to make the young generations understand this is to sensitise them. However, the underlying piny to eclipse here is that, primarily the grown ups must be very much sensitised before imparting the same feeling amongst the future grown-ups. There lies a lot of responsibility of the society to understand, honour and promote gender integrity and allow their own mental faculty to expand

³⁵ Nawabuddin vs State Of Uttarakhand, CRIMINAL APPEAL NO.144 OF 2022

the horizon of understanding.

Also, the presence of laws and policy framework are though plenty in numbers to combat the sexual offences against children, the omittance is still by and large a regular practice. The inability of a child or a minor to understand the presence of malice in an action or even the inability to testify any such offences or wrong done, makes it very easy for the miscreants to choose children as easy targets. Their also lies a lot of responsibility and awareness on behalf of the parents, guardians and the vicinity where kids roam around and grow. Their promptness and responsive nature of grown-ups can make things very easily noticeable deterring the actions to take place and identifying the vitiating minds. Timely awareness camps, by various authorities and factions of society can also help people in villages and far-flung areas to be aware about the developments and steps which can be opted for in case of such happenings or even how to prohibit or even address them. Apart from them, the implementing authorities and the executive must also shed away any sort of indolence which they showcase in cases involving kids and minors.

At last, only this much can be hoped that, the society and its transformation is a constant process. Whether it is being like or not; society will keep on taking its turns and twists. And a greater part of this larger world called society are the children. The more we would be able to provide them a safe, secured, awaked, free and frolic environment to grow, the more we would be stepping towards a secured and synergic future. The efforts towards the two aspects addressed in this article are not that sufficient to be satisfied with. Much work is still to be done and implemented. The endeavour should be hence towards realising the gaps and taking measures to solve them instead to creating an unnecessary hue about it.
